

Library

AMBLECOTE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

R E P O R T S
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1959.



Medical Officer of Health

J. H. SIMPKISS, M.B., Ch.B.

Public Health Inspector

T. A. WASS, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
131 High Street,
Amblecote,
Stourbridge.

Tel. Stourbridge 5354.

AMBLECOTE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor H. J. Clarke

Councillors:

W. Evans J.P., (Chairman of the Council)

T. Fletcher (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

G. Davies


D.C.Gittins

J.H.Hyde

C.E.D.McLean

E. H. Mees

J. J. C. Round



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28804375>

AMBLECOTE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year ended December 31st 1959.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ended December 31st 1959.

The Vital Statistics show a Crude Death Rate of 13.6 per 1000 of the population as compared with 13.2 for 1958. The Live Birth Rate was 14.0 per 1000 of the population as compared with 12.9 for 1958. There were no Still Births. The Infantile Mortality Rate was Nil per 1000 live births.

Housing and Overcrowding are dealt with in the Report of the Public Health Inspector.

There has been no change in the Industrial Circumstances of your District since my last report.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	665
Number of Persons per acre	..	..	..	..	..	4.4
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident population, middle of 1959)	..	..	..	..	..	2930
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..	..	978
Average number of persons per house	..	..	..	..	..	3.0
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	£52,548
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	£210

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Total	(Legitimate	..	..	..	M. F.
	41	(Illegitimate	..	..	..	13 26
						- 2
Live Birth Rate - per 1000 population	..	..	..	..	..	14. 0.
Area Comparability Factor	..	..	..	..	..	0.94
Standardized Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	..	13.16
Live Birth Rate - England & Wales (1959)	..	..	..	..	..	16. 5
Still Births -	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Total live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	41
Still Birth Rate - per 1000 live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate - per 1000 live births - total	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate - per 1000 legitimate births	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate - per 1000 illegitimate births	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Infant Mortality Rate - England & Wales (1959)	..	..	..	..	..	22.0
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	..	..	..	..	..	4.8%
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

(2)

Maternal Mortality Rate - per 1000 live and still-births Nil

Deaths 30 - Males 15; Females 15

Death Rate - per 1000 population	13.6
Area Comparability Factor	0.97
Standardized Death Rate per 1000 population ..	13.19
Death Rate, England & Wales (1959)	11.6
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	5
Death Rate from Cancer - per 1000 population ..	1.7

(3)

CAUSES OF DEATH REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN

Disease	1959			Total
	Male	Female		
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-
Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	2	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus	-	1	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	-	2	2	2
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	3	4	7	7
Coronary Disease - Angina	3	-	3	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-	-
Other Heart Disease	2	2	4	4
Other Circulatory Disease	1	-	1	1
Influenza	-	2	2	2
Pneumonia	-	1	1	1
Bronchitis	3	1	4	4
Other diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy - Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	1	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1	1	1
All other accidents	-	-	-	-
Suicide	-	-	-	-
Homicide and operations of War	-	-	-	-
All causes	15	15	30	30

(4)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health (Retired 31st Dec. 1959)
J. H. Simpkins, M.B., CH.B.,

Public Health Inspector
T.A. Wass, M.A.P.H.I., CERT S.I.B.
CERT. MEAT & FOODS.

ADOPTIVE ACTS
as 1938

SECTION B.
GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities:

All Clinical Material sent to the County Bacteriologist,
Stafford.

Bacteriological Examinations:

Number of Specimens sent for Report	..	..	..	..	2
	Total.	Positive.	Negative.		

Diphtheria (swabs)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sputum	2	Nil	2

The duty of providing the following services has been laid upon Staffordshire County Council in accordance with the provisions of the National Health Service Act, 1946, viz:

Health Centres;

Care of Mothers and Young Children;

Midwifery;

Health Visiting;

Home Nursing;

Vaccination and Immunisation

Ambulance Services;

Prevention of Illness - care and aftercare;

Domestic Help;

Blind Persons;

No powers have been delegated to the Council.

HOSPITALS

GENERAL AND FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

These are controlled by a Regional Board and are available for the treatment of Patients who have been duly notified.

(5)

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) WATER. See Public Health Inspector's report.
(ii) SEWERAGE. Disposed of by Stourbridge Main Drainage Board.
2. RIVERS & STREAMS. The River Stour runs through part of the District which is situated in the Severn River Board area.
3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.
(ii) VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES.
The particulars will be found in the Report of the Public Health Inspector.
(iii) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS Nil
4. SCHOOLS. One Primary School situated within the area, under the jurisdiction of Staffordshire County Council.
5. DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. The arrangements are adequate.

SECTION D

HOUSING

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1959

1. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers Nil

2. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(A) - PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1957:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:-

(a) By Owners Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners .. Nil

(B) - PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 16, 17 & 23 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1957:-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

(C) - PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 18 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1957:-

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil

4. Housing Act, 1957 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

- (a) (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year (1959) Nil
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein Nil
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein Nil
- (b) Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year Nil
- (c) (1) Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year Nil
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases . Nil
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND OVERCROWDING

(See Report of Public Health Inspector.)

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) Milk Supply.
- (b) Meat and other foods.
(See Report of Public Health Inspector)
- (c), (d) Adulteration, etc. Food & Drugs Acts, etc. - are administered by the County Council.
- (e) Nutrition: No action has been taken.
- (f) Shell Fish: Little, if any, sold in the District.

SECTION F
7
PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(2) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1959

DISEASE	Total No. of Cases	under 1 year	1 to 2 yrs	2 to 3 yrs	3 to 4 yrs	4 to 5 yrs	5 to 10 yrs	10 to 15 yrs	15 to 20 yrs	20 to 35 yrs	35 to 45 yrs	45 to 65 yrs	over 65 yrs	Cases sent to Isolation Hospital	Deaths
Enteric Fever	8														
Scarlet Fever															
Whooping Cough															
Diphtheria															
Erysipelas															
Smallpox															
Measles	16		1	3	2	1	9								
Pneumonia															
Puerperal Pyrexia															
Cerebro-spinal Fever															
Poliomyelitis															
Encephalitis															
Dysentery															
Totals	24	-	1	4	3	4	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

5. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. Service administered by
Staffordshire County Council.

(b) TUBERCULOSIS. Service administered by
Staffordshire County Council.

Age periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year								
1 to 5 years								
5 to 10 "								
10 to 15 "								
15 to 20 "								
20 to 25 "								
25 to 35 "								
35 to 45 "								
45 to 55 "								
55 to 65 "								
65 and upwards								
TOTALS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1939 to 1959

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF AMBLECOTE IN THE
COUNTY OF STAFFORD

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of the Factories Act, 1937

PART 1 OF THE ACT

- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Written notices	Occup- iers prose- cuted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
) Factories in which Sections 1,2, 3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities /	4	4	-	-
) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	51	54	8	-
) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority excluding out-workers' premises) ..	-	-	-	-
Total	55	58	8	-

- Cases in which DEFECTS were found
(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more
separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or
more "cases")

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found		Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	Number of cases in which prose- cutions were instituted
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
at or cleanliness (S.1)					
overcrowding (S.2)					
reasonable temperature (S.3)					
adequate ventilation (S.4)					
effective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
) Insufficient					
) Unsuitable or defective... 8	8		1		
) not separate for sexes ...					
Other offences against the Act not including offences relating to Outwork					
Total ..	8	8	1	-	-

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J.H.SIMPKISS
Medical Officer of Health.

AMBLECOTE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1959

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my annual report for the year 1959 as follows:-

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION

Houses provided with Water Closets	967
Houses provided with Pan and Earth Closets	4
Houses provided with separate Water Closets	907
Houses provided with Water Closets in common	60

The houses that have Pan and Earth Closets are situated in parts of your district where sewer accommodation is neither available nor practicable.

REMOVAL OF HOUSEHOLD REFUSE

All houses are provided with suitable portable receptacles for the household ashes and refuse. It has not been found necessary to put into operation a scheme for the provision of Dust Bins by the Council. Notices requiring the replacement of worn out receptacles have been complied with and no proceedings have been necessary. Refuse Removal is carried out by direct labour, a weekly collection has been maintained. Disposal is by controlled tipping, at the tip in Withymoor. A Karrier Bantam Refuse Lorry is used and has proved both economical and satisfactory.

Salvage Salvage is not collected. Parcels of Paper can be left at the Council Offices or, if the quantity is sufficient, are called for by arrangement with the Chief Public Health Inspector, Brierley Hill.

HOUSING

The housing situation still presents a problem. Four private houses were completed during the year and two houses were converted into four flats.

Tenders have been accepted for the erection of 12 Council flats for the rehousing of persons in unfit houses. Planning permission has been obtained for the erection of 12 Old Peoples Bungalows and a further application has been made to develop 12 acres of land for housing purposes in order to complete the rehousing of persons in unfit houses within the Urban District.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

The houses and flats in your district may be classified as follows:-

Dwellings with one bedroom	4	}
Dwellings with two bedrooms	336	
Dwellings with three bedrooms	556	
Dwellings with more than three bedrooms	85	

A survey of the district showed that 68 properties may have to be demolished. The time in which this can be accomplished will depend on the availability of alternative accommodation for the persons displaced. The total number of dwellings provided by the Council is 251. 203 of them are traditional houses and 48 three storey flats. Post War building has been as follows, viz:- 80 houses and 48 flats.

No Repair Notices under the Housing Acts have been issued.

53 Informal and Statutory Notices within the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served in respect of miscellaneous defects at 42 houses. No proceedings at the Magistrates Court were necessary.

HOUSE PURCHASE & HOUSING ACT 1959
IMPROVEMENT GRANTS & STANDARD GRANTS

Four applications were made for Standard Grants and one application for Discretionary Grant. A total of £569. 15s. Od. was paid in respect thereof. This is equal to approximately the product of a rate of 3d. in the £ per annum.

RENT ACT 1957

No applications for certificates of disrepair were made.

Overcrowding. Although a number of houses are occupied by two families, there is no overcrowding if the Statutory Table is applied. As stated under the Heading General Statistics the average number of persons per house is 3.0. A majority of applications for Council Houses are from married sons and daughters residing with their parents who wish to have homes of their own.

NOMADIC CARAVAN DWELLERS

As in the previous year, 1959 has been free from visitors.

VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES

No premises have been found to be infested and no complaint of infestation had been received.

WATER SUPPLY

All premises obtain a continuous and wholesome supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes from the mains of the Stourbridge and District Water Board of which Amblecote Council is one of the constituent authorities. It is pumped direct from Bore Holes at Wollaston Road and Mill Meadow, both of which are in your district. A further bore hole is situated in an adjoining area. Samples of water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination are submitted at frequent intervals to Laboratories provided by the County Councils of Staffordshire and Worcestershire. The tests show a certain hardness but otherwise the water is of excellent quality for drinking and domestic purposes.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955 MILK

Milk is produced at two farms in your area. It is taken for treatment direct to a Dairy in an adjoining district. There is no Dairy in Amblecote. As the Urban District is a Specified

Area all milk sold is either tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilised. Supplementary Licences to retail Milk in Amblecote have been issued to 10 persons whose premises are outside the district and 12 Shopkeepers within the District have each received a Retailer's Licence.

FOOD - PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS

No Slaughter-house is in use in your district. There are three retail Butchers. They obtain their meat as follows:- (1) from Dudley (Dudley Co-operative Society); (2) from Wolverhampton Abbatoir; (3) from Kidderminster. In each instance there is 100% inspection by qualified Inspectors. There have been no seizures or surrender of unsound meat. Very few pigs are fed by ordinary householders. No notices to slaughter swine, etc. on private premises were received during 1959.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Two persons only are licensed to slaughter or stun animals in a Slaughterhouse. There is no Knacker Yard in your district.

FOOD HYGIENE

All the food shops and canteens have been inspected regularly and it has not been found necessary to take any Legal Proceedings.

Food is sold by retail in the following shops:-

Business premises only - Grocers 5; Butchers 1; Greengrocer 1. Combined shops and dwelling houses - Grocers and General 9; Butchers 2; Greengrocers 3; Sweets, Tobacco etc. 3; Fried Fish 2; Café 1.

Eleven factories have Canteens for their employees.

One "Model" Bakery (Factory) is in operation from which Bread is distributed over a wide area.

No Ice Cream is manufactured in your area. 20 premises are registered for the storage and sale thereof. They are each fitted with a suitable "Conservator". The premises

comprise 17 Shops, 1 Café, 1 Sports Pavilion and 1 Public House.

One market, a private one, operates for the sale and distribution of agricultural produce. It is also used as an Egg Packing Station. There is no public market nor are there any stalls for street trading.

UNSOUND FOOD

One consignment consisting of 100 stones of onions were surrendered voluntarily the same being in an advance state of decomposition.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS

The following premises have been treated for infestations of Rats and Mice, viz:- Factories 5, Hospital 1, Dwelling Houses 10. The Factories are, by arrangement, treated quarterly. The work is performed by an "Operator" employed by Brierley Hill Urban District Council. The assistance in this direction of the Chief Public Health Inspector at Brierley Hill, is appreciated. A charge to cover the cost of treatment is made in respect of premises other than dwelling houses. The Sewers have not been treated as tests proved negative.

SMOKE AND ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The year has seen a further improvement in this field particularly in respect of the reduction of smoke from factories within the area. Only one factory is now giving any trouble with smoke from the chimney stack serving the heating boilers. It is hoped that this will be abated shortly when the boilers are converted to oil firing.

Grit and Dust from Furnaces Suitable grit arrestors have been fitted to all cupolas in the area with one exception. It is hoped that the firm concerned will comply with this request in the very near future.

There has been close co-operation between the Alkali Inspector and myself in respect of factories at which we have joint responsibilities. This co-operation has been greatly appreciated.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951

No premises are licenced.

PETROLEUM ACT

24 premises are licenced to store petroleum spirit in the area, the total amount licenced being 22,710 gallons. Licence fees amounted to £14 - 10s. - 0d.

1 licence covering the storage of 224 lbs. Calcium Carbide was issued, the fee amounted to 5s. 0d.

In conclusion I would like to thank my colleagues and staff for the assistance rendered to me.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee my thanks for their confidence and support.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

T. A. WASS

Public Health Inspector.

